

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 L-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 IGA-02 DRC-01 /135 W

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R 201307Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9698

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2651

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, BE, NATO, DA

SUBJ: F-104 REPLACEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 7192

1. I HAVE NOTED AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE SECRETARY MEET WITH THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND DISCUSS WITH HIM THE ADVANTAGE OF BUYING AN AMERICAN PLANE TO REPLACE THE F-104S. THIS CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE A GOOD IDEA. I DO WANT TO NOTE HOWEVER THAT, FROM ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO ME, A BELGIAN DECISION TO BUY THE FRENCH PLANE WILL NOT BE DECISIVE IN REGARD TO THE EVENTUAL DANISH DECISION. THIS WAS THE VERY CLEAR IMPLICATION DURING MY TALK WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER THIS WEEK (COPENHAGEN 2634). I BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE IS RIGHT IN SUGGESTING THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE CAPABILITY AND MERITS OF THE AMERICAN CONTENDERS--IN OTHER WORDS, THAT

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THEY CAN DO THE JOB BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE AVAILABLE.

2. COPENHAGEN'S MOST PROMINENT NEWSPAPER, BERLINGSKE
TIDENDE, FRONT-PAGED TODAY A STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE
"CHIRAC WANTS TO THREATEN US INTO BUYING MIRAGE," WITH THE
SUBHEADING "OTHERWISE THE UNITY OF THE EC WILL BE BROUGHT
INTO DANGER." THE STORY REFERRED TO THE FRENCH PRIME
MINISTER'S REPORTED REMARKS TO THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PRESS
CLUB IN PARIS. I CANNOT IMAGINE ANYTHING MORE LIKELY TO
TURN THE DANES SOUR ON THE MIRAGE.
CROWE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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